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REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS'
USE OF A SPECIAL \$600,000 APPROPRIATION
FOR TRAINING OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

FEBRUARY 1974

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February 22, 1974

The Honorable President of the Senate
The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Senate and the
Assembly of the Legislature of California

Members:

Transmitted herewith is the Auditor General's report on the Department of Corrections' use of a special \$600,000 appropriation for "additional training" of correctional officers.

The special appropriation is being used to finance a training course to maintain peace officer status for correctional officers. In the judgment of the Auditor General, this is not the intent for which these monies were appropriated.

The peace officer training course, pursuant to the Penal Code, is oriented toward the needs of city policemen and county sheriff deputies who deal with the general public. Twenty-five percent of the training course covers laws and methods of arrest which are seldom experienced in correctional institutions. In fact, the job specification for correctional officers does not even include an arrest function.

The Auditor General does not take exception to the department's compliance with the Penal Code by conducting a training course for correctional officers. However, in his judgment the appropriation was clearly for the purpose of upgrading the performance of correctional personnel in their day-to-day duties.

The Auditor General recommends that the Department of Corrections discontinue the financing of peace officer training requirements from the special appropriation for additional training. Implementation of this recommendation will free the balance of funds,

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if any, for training to upgrade the performance of correctional personnel in their duties.

The department has not maintained a formal set of accounting records for the appropriation and, therefore, was unable to provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditures charged to it. The Auditor General recommends that the department immediately establish a formal set of records.

Accurate identification of costs is necessary to (1) determine that costs charged are for their intended purposes, and (2) to provide accurate data to support future requests.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vincent Thomas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

VINCENT THOMAS, Chairman
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

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INTRODUCTION

In response to a legislative request, we reviewed the Department of Corrections' use of a special \$600,000 appropriation for "additional training" of correctional officers.

The department is conducting training programs at Corona and Modesto, California with this appropriation.

FINDINGS

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

The special \$600,000 appropriation for additional training of the Department of Corrections' personnel is being used to finance a training course to maintain peace officer status for corrections officers. In our judgment, this use is not in accordance with the intent for which these monies were appropriated.

The Budget Act of 1973 appropriated \$600,000 to the Department of Corrections "for additional training for correctional personnel, including correctional officers, correctional program supervisors, correctional counselors, parole agents, middle managers, administrators, and parole board members and representatives...". This \$600,000, appropriated as a separate item in the Budget Act, is in addition to approximately \$657,000 in the department's operational budget to finance its in-service training program.

The department is using the special \$600,000 appropriation to fund a peace officer training course that is oriented toward the needs of law enforcement officials who come into daily contact with the general public. Twenty-five percent of the training course covers laws and methods of arrest which are seldom encountered in correctional institutions. In fact, the job specification for correctional officers does not even include an arrest function.

The course reflects a primary concern with standards for peace officers such as city policemen and county sheriff deputies.

The course given by the Department of Corrections was developed by the department and by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training which has the responsibility under Penal Code Section 832 for setting standards for such training.

The training is conducted at Corona and Modesto, California. The first class was held in July 1973. The department estimates that as of February 15, 1974, 1,971 correctional personnel will have completed the training and that another 1,680 correctional personnel will take the course by June 30, 1974.

Correctional officers were given peace officer status in 1968. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 832 added in 1971, the department is providing training to its correctional personnel in order that they can maintain their peace officer status. Penal Code Section 832 requires that in order for a person with peace officer status to maintain such status, he must satisfactorily complete "a course of training in the exercise of his powers of arrest and in the carrying and use of firearms".

We are not taking exception to the department's compliance with Penal Code Section 832. However, the \$600,000 appropriation for training was for "additional training" and, in our judgment, was clearly for the purpose of upgrading the performance of correctional personnel in their day-to-day duties.

As previously noted, arrest functions, which are required training under Section 832, are not even contained in the job specification of correctional officers.

RECOMMENDATION

- We recommend that the Department of Corrections discontinue the financing of peace officer training from the special appropriation for additional training.

BENEFITS

Implementation of our recommendation by the department will free the balance of funds, if any, from the special appropriation of \$600,000 for training to upgrade the performance of correctional personnel in their day-to-day duties.

ACCOUNTING FOR SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

The Department of Corrections has not maintained a formal set of accounting records for the special \$600,000 training appropriation and, therefore, was unable to provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditures charged to the appropriation.

As of December 31, 1973, the State Controller's records show \$225,467 had been charged to the \$600,000 training appropriation, consisting of \$154,163 for personal services and \$71,304 for operating expense and equipment.

Departmental personnel stated that most of the \$154,163 in personal services costs charged to the appropriation as of December 31, 1973, went for the salaries of 38 correctional officer positions which the department hired as replacements for correctional officers attending training. These officers are assigned to individual institutions but are paid by the department from the training appropriation.

On February 4, 1974, we asked the department's accounting officer for the detailed expenditure records of the \$600,000 training appropriation. The accounting officer stated that the department has not yet set up formal records to account for expenditures charged to the \$600,000 training appropriation, and therefore could not provide us with a detailed breakdown of the expenditures.

As of the completion of our fieldwork on February 13, 1974, the department still had not provided us with a detailed breakdown of the costs charged to the appropriation.

RECOMMENDATION

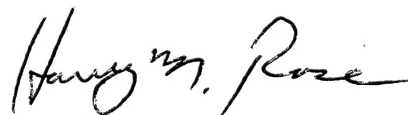
We recommend that the Department of Corrections immediately establish a formal set of accounting records for the special \$600,000 appropriation of the 1973 Budget Act.

BENEFITS

Accurate identification of costs charged to special appropriations is necessary in order to (1) determine that all costs charged are for the purpose of that appropriation, and (2) to provide accurate cost data to support future appropriation requests.

COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

1. There is nothing in the intent of the \$600,000 appropriation which precludes its use for peace officer training. Training to correctional personnel in order that they can maintain their peace officer status represents "additional training".
2. I would have preferred to use the \$600,000 for expanded correctional training.
3. Since the \$600,000 appropriation was added by the Legislature and was not requested by the department, it is uncertain as to what monies would have been utilized to finance peace officer training had not the Legislature added the \$600,000.
4. Action is being taken to see that there will be a full accounting of the \$600,000 appropriation.



Harvey M. Rose
Auditor General

February 19, 1974

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